

What is claimed is:

1. A method of propagating a species of the genus *Musa*, comprising the step of:
  - (a) planting one or more whole defoliated suckers of the genus *Musa* substantially horizontally; and
  - (b) growing one or more plants from each sucker.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises:
  - (i) providing a furrow in the ground;
  - (ii) inserting each whole defoliated sucker substantially horizontally into the furrow; and
  - (iii) covering the corm of each sucker with soil while leaving the pseudostem exposed.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein each whole defoliated sucker is oriented in the furrow so that its longitudinal axis is parallel to that of the furrow.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the whole defoliated suckers are planted pairwise.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the corms of the whole defoliated suckers in each pair are adjacent one another.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises:
- (i) cultivating the whole defoliated sucker to yield a plurality of vertical offshoots;
  - (ii) selecting a plurality of vertical offshoots to cultivate and removing the remaining vertical offshoots;
  - (iii) cultivating the selected vertical offshoots to maturity.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein only two vertical offshoots are selected in step (b)(ii).
8. The method of 7, wherein the vertical offshoots are removed by pruning or destruction.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of (c) cultivating fruit from the plants.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of (d) picking the fruit.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the fruit is banana.
12. In a method of propagating bananas from suckers, the improvement comprising planting whole defoliated suckers substantially horizontally.
13. Bananas prepared by the method of claim 1.